Referendum Soon On Abolishing Formal Organization Of Classes

By LARRY MOORE

At a special meeting Wednesday, the Senate voted to hold a referendum on a proposal to discontinue the formal organization of classes on Rice campus.

This action is a result of an apparently considerable feeling on the part of the student body that the class system no longer serves any purposes that could not be better handled through the colleges.

The abolition of any tradition as old as the class structure is perhaps a bold step, yet there is a widespread sentiment that the class organization has become a nominal one without any meaning.

THE MAJOR question is whether or not other organizations can handle the work now being done by the classes. It seems clear that there must be a provision made for some committee to handle the activities of the graduating seniors.

If the referendum is passed, however, the colleges will have to fill the major portion of the void left by the abolition of the class system. This would mean that the colleges would have to assume responsibility for such things as all-school parties and the handling of Parent Orientation Day.

Also, colleges would have to make it possible for people in all the colleges to get together and know each other. This latter point is something that the class system has to some extent been able to accomplish.

It was the general feeling among the Senate members that not only can the colleges perform these functions, but also that it is desirable that they do. It was pointed out that an artificial structure such as the class system is inconsistent with the idea of continued growth of the colleges.

The proposed referendum will of course raise many issues and should generate a considerable amount of debate and discussion.

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Speaks Nov. 2 and 3